SARA SKYWAVES

W5SRA

May 2024

President's Message

Hello May!
I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. I would like take this opportunity to thank all who attended last month's general meeting. It was great to see our new member Marshall Kelly, KE5CPD at our meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dave Piekarski, K5EEN for sharing the QSL history of Raymond Stone, W5RBO.

Kathy, KI5LEY supplied me with a roster this month and there are several names I have not met yet. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to our next general meeting on Thursday May 9th. We will be discussing our plans for ARRL's Field Day June 22nd and 23rd. We would love to hear your input and see your participation in that event.

With the approach of September it is time to consider joining the Board of Directors, if you have any interest you can find the list of duties and qualification for officers in the SARA's Constitution and By-Laws on the web site or this link:

By-Laws-SARA-Rev09 03142024

A Call for Volunteers

I received the following communication from Chadwick, KD5UMO concerning the MS Ride for North Texas May 4th and 5th:

> Good afternoon.
>
> I am one of the committee members for the MS Ride for North Texas and we are looking for and inviting communicators for this year's event. We have had a 100% change in the route that has greatly affected our volunteer base. Thank you to those that are reading this that have been with us for 10-15 or more years. Historically, our route was Frisco-Denton-FTW, or Frisco-Sanger-FTW, etc. This year we are starting in Mansfield with an overnight in Glen Rose, coming back to FTW.
>
> If you have the ability to come and support the event for one or both days, we could surely appreciate use of your resource function. More can be found here, as well as signing up:
>
> DFW MSRide Comms
>
> 73 - Chadwick KD5UMO

This is an excellent opportunity to give back to the community in North Texas. I know this is only a few days away but at last report they were still needing more volunteers.

73,

Andy Barnes, W5KZJ

JOIN US ON THE AIR

ALL SARA operations and all Sachse ARES/RACES operations are being conducted on the W5SRA repeater

The Sachse Amateur Radio Association uses the W5SRA repeater in Sachse, TX:
Frequency: 440.350 MHz
Shift: +5MHz
PL tone: 110.9 (Tx & Rx)

SARA Weekly Information Net
Monday, 7:00 PM on the W5SRA Repeater

The W5SRA repeater is accessible via EchoLink and AllStarLink.
Sachse Radio Club **AllStarLink Instructions**: (Click Here)
Please use node 528831 to connect using AllStarLink

Next General Meeting

Thursday, May 9 @ 7:30 PM

North Pointe Church of Christ

7030 S State Hwy 78,

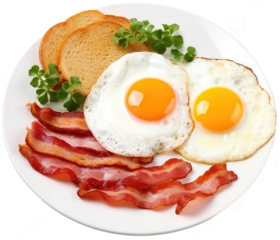
Sachse, TX 75048

Topic: 2024 Field Day Preparation Discussion

Mike Crow W5MKS—SARA VP

QSO Breakfast

Meet us each Saturday at 7:30am at **Ballard Street Cafe**, 112 N. Ballard in downtown **Wylie**. People begin showing up around 7:00 with most showing up by 7:30am.



Next Board Meeting:

May 23, 2024 via

Google Meet at this link.

ANY MEMBER IS WELCOME TO JOIN US!!

FREE ON-LINE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATING CLASS

A free, weekly, 3-hour Amateur Radio Operating Class on Zoom will begin on Thursday April 4 and run through June 20 at 6:30 PM Eastern time.

The presenters will be various experienced folks in the various subjects.

A detailed syllabus will be published before the classes begin. Attend them all, or any that you like, but you must register for the classes.

To receive registration information, contact Rol Anders, K3RA, at roland.anders@comcast.net.

Subjects will include:
All About Operating--A general Introduction
Amateur Radio Organizations—Local to International
Ham Radio Awards
DXing-History and Tips from the Experts
QSLing-How to get that needed card for DXCC or WAS
VHF/UHF Weak Signal Work and "Roving"
Image Operating—Slow Scan and Fast Scan TV
Remote Station control over internet
Learning CW in the no-code era
Digital Modes—From RTTY to FT8 and beyond
Contesting—How to get started, tips for the beginner and intermediate contesters
Logging Software—What's available, how to use
Propagation—A general intro to HF Propagation
Amateur Satellites—How to get started
Portable (backpacking) operation—Tips from an expert
Setting Up a Modern (or not so modern) HF Station
Lightning Protection and Grounding
Traffic Handling
Public Service, Emergency Communications

Find us on Facebook!

Did you know you can keep up with events and conversations between newsletters by joining the Sachse Amateur Radio Association on Facebook? Click the Facebook link above.

Sunday Public Service Net

W5SRA Repeater

8:00 PM

Frequency: 440.350 MHz
Shift: +5MHz
PL tone: 110.9 (Tx & Rx)

Upcoming Hamfest

6/14-15/2024 - Lewisville, TX

https://www.dfwhamexpo.com

Upcoming W5SRA Laurel Testing

May 18th - Contact the VE team at this link to make sure the testing is still scheduled.

June 15th - **CANCELLED**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Monday - "SARA Weekly Information Net" 7:00pm W5SRA Repeater

440.350 MHz,
Offset +5.00 Mhz,
PL tone: 110.9

MFJ to Cease On-Site Production

MFJ Enterprises, Inc founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown ***See the full article later in this newsletter***.

Active Hurricane Season Predicted for 2024

Colorado State University (CSU) hurricane researchers predict an active Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30) in their initial 2024 forecast. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, attended the National Hurricane Conference in Florida in late March where the prediction was announced.

Click HERE for the full article.

Future Meeting Topics

May 9th - ***"Field Day 2024 Preparation"*** Mike Crow W5MKC—Vice President

June 13th - ***"Field Day 2024 Final Coordination"*** Mike Crow W5MKC—Vice President

2024 Online Ham Bootcamp

The Nashua Area Radio Society's 2024 online Ham Bootcamp will be held on Saturday, May 11th, from 9 AM to 5 PM Central Time, via Zoom.

Ham Bootcamp includes a series of demonstrations and tutorials designed to help newly licensed Technician, General and Extra-class license holders get on the air. This is also an opportunity for hams who are interested in seeing what the hobby has to offer.

This online program is available to all licensed and prospective amateur radio operators. You can register for the next Ham Bootcamp session at:

https://www.n1fd.org/register-ham-bootcamp/

For additional information, contact Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB, of the Nashua Area Radio Society at:

bootcamp@n1fd.org

Many Had No Choice

A lot of CW ops are old. They learned Morse code because back in the day, it was a license requirement... 5 words per minute for Novice... 13 words per minute for a General... 20 words per minute for an Extra...

These operators had no choice. None. It was either learn Morse code, or forget amateur radio.

You can say what you want about how fair the system was back then. It doesn't matter.

Some Kept On With It

Some kept on with it. CW is not everyone's cup of tea, but for some of us, it's blissful. It's musical. And there are definite technical reasons to support it. People who run FT8 these days but don't know a letter of Morse code have discovered the technical reasons. Low data rate, narrow bandwidth modes get through when SSB does not.

Stuffed Shirts

It's true, there are CW operators who think that the Morse code license requirement was a proper screening technique for keeping the riff-raff out. Most CW operators don't feel this way.

In my own case... Morse code was not a license requirement when I got my first amateur license in 2017. I started learning code in late 2018. I was 65 years old at the time.

It was an act of free will.

Number one, I'm self-taught. As a result, I learned paddle backwards. My forefinger is faster than my thumb, so I gave the dot side of the paddle to my forefinger. Seemed like a good idea at the time. (?)

I fixed my paddle problem by rewiring the key. In some keyers, "paddle reverse" is a menu setting.

Unfortunately, a "bug" won't work that way. I guess that my next trick is to learn to send left-handed... another challenge...

I spent a lot of time learning code. Kept a practice buzzer at the kitchen table, and used it to send code when I was eating. Everything I saw, I keyed out. "Salt... ... .-.. .-.. - I keyed out text off of food packages, junk mail, newspapers... anything that found its way onto the table.

When I was stuck waiting in the car, or for doctors, or... I ran a code program on the cell phone and copied what the phone spit out. I kept a writing tablet in the car, along with a pen - so I could take advantage of any spare time I had to do this.

I downloaded a "text to CW" program and read books in code. Do you know how ***s l o w*** this is?

Everywhere I went, when I would see something with print on it (signs, etc.) I would sound it out with Morse code in my head.

Just to stiffen my resolve, when I began this ordeal - I quit SSB cold turkey. I erased the path of retreat.

It took me 4 years to get to 20 words per minute. For a good Navy recruit, it might have taken three months. But I'm old. And I'm getting older, thank God!

Am I proud of myself? YES

A slow sender is still a sender. I filled up a log book as a slow sender. It's not like, "Well, I got to 20 words per minute now, so I can get on the air with my code." Nope nope nope

Were there jerks out there who heard my 10 word per minute code, and came back at me with 30 words per minute? Yep.

When I was in high school, I had a speech class. I was mortified about the prospect of getting up there and speaking to a room full of people. The podium had two legs, and I could see my classmates' knees knocking while they gave their speeches.

My 80 year old great aunt gave me a bit of advice:

"Just remember, Jim. They can kill you, but they can't eat you."

So, when a few idiots got rattled by my slow code on the air... I thought, "They can't eat me." Besides, they'd probably have to boil me for days...

Band Rejection

This is a problem at every amateur radio gathering. The prime band in the daytime is usually 20 meters. On Field Day, there are always more attendees than there are opportunities to set up and run radios.

In the past, as a CW op, I have been banished by clubs to 40 meters because the SSB ops wanted the prime band and the higher frequency bands (up to 6 meters).

40 meters in the daytime is a poor-performing, short-hop (NVIS) band. It's a very tough slog.

If perchance a CW op gets the nod to operate on 20 meters during a daytime club outing, I don't see the problem with that. Someone has to get 20. Why shouldn't the CW op be in the running?

In fact, it's the CW op at the club that usually makes most of the points. That is because CW QSOs in many contests have multipliers. Typically, CW pileups aren't as bad as SSB ones, and most CW operators run 100 watts or less. It's easier to get QSOs with CW in a contest than it is to fight in the SSB piles with legal limit operators.

A good CW contest op can log 100 QSOs in an hour - or more.

Not that most clubs care. I have never been in a contest-oriented club. For most clubs, contests are a social opportunity, not a points game.

But, even so... in most club outings, maybe 4 people can operate at the same time. One gets the prime band. Two more get bands that sort-of work. I'd get 40 meters, which almost doesn't work in the daytime.

Someone has to bow out. I have spent more than one Field Day walking around and eating hot dogs. Actually, that's not a bad deal. You don't have to set up, or tear down. Besides, I like hot dogs.

Radios interfere with each other, even with bandpass filters. Some of the most popular 100 watt radios (maybe yours) have very poor rejection of out-of-band signals. You bring that dog to Field Day, and it'll reduce the number of operators even further.

CW ops are usually recruited to be the freaks in the sideshow on Field Day... "Look! See, he's sending Morse code, just like they did in 1844."

"Who is he sending code to?"

"Nobody. He's on 40 meters."

If you Snooze, You Lose

If I was willing to stay up all night - while the rest of the club slept... I could really tear 'em up with CW on 40 meters. Just keep the coffeepot going.

During the Pandemic

During the pandemic, when we operated from home... I ran Field Day with two, 1.5 watt CW transceivers. I ran a 20 meter one during the daytime, and a 40 meter one at night. With the mults for QRP and CW, I outscored everyone else in the club. At the time, I had no contest experience, and was maybe a 13 word per minute operator. I was using a straight key. The cheap QRP kit radios didn't have keyers in them.

What if I had been running QRO (100 W) and 20+ words per minute?

It Might Not Be Easy

Learning Morse code for me was difficult. "Difficult" is a relative term.

I "talk" (CW) to hams that have had strokes, and traumatic brain injuries. I have CW QSOs with blind operators.

I'm 70 years old. Can't teach an old dog new tricks. And the people I talk to are even older.

Have to laugh... one of the common items in a CW rag chew QSO is the "ham since" item. Yesterday, a guy send me this: "Ham since 1953."

It's kind of embarrassing for me. For me, it's "Ham since 2017." For me to be an amateur operator for 70 years... I'll have to live to 2087. I'd be 134 years old. HI HI

Incentives

Since learning Morse code is now totally voluntary... if the older practitioners want this segment of the hobby to survive, they should provide incentives to those who are making the effort to learn code. Having the courtesy of reducing their speed when communicating with a slower sender is one of those incentives.

A couple of years ago, we organized a monthly luncheon for local CW operators. Everyone is invited, and we get quite a few people who attend who are not CW ops but are interested in knowing what the excitement (?) is all about. CW is cool, isn't it?

Speaking of I Can't Do It

I have been writing this column for years. I don't own it. I don't own the club, and I have never been the newsletter editor. I have been told by multiple editors that member submissions to the newsletter are few and far between.

So, if you have something to say... send it to the editor.

- Jim Eatman KG5WAW

SARA Club Officers for 2023-2024

Current officers for the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, per the election held at the September 2023 General Meeting.

President	Andy Barnes	W5KZJ
Vice President	Mike Crow	W5MJC
Secretary	Kathy Wingo	KI5LEY
Treasurer	Linda Smyder	K5LCS
Public Information Officer	Jeff Feldman	KI5DDX
Director at Large	John Smyder	W5JWS
Newsletter Editor	Ev Wingo	KI5LEX

JOIN THE ARRL

As an ARRL Affiliated Club, SARA receives a commission for every **new** ARRL membership and **renewal** we submit to ARRL Headquarters and get to retain a portion of the dues for each regular membership submitted.

Clubs retain **$15 for each new membership** OR lapsed membership (of two years or more). A NEW MEMBER is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.

Clubs retain **$5 for each renewal**. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires.

You can download the ARRL Affiliated Club Membership form here.

Once downloaded, complete the form and get it to the club Treasurer along with a check made out to 'Sachse Amateur Radio Association' and we will submit your ARRL membership application/renewal to ARRL Headquarters. (**NOTE**: ARRL Headquarters is working on getting an on-line version working so that you can go directly to them and the ARRL will send the club a check for any new or renewed memberships.)

Which Way Do I Point My Beam?

So, you want to get some HF DX contacts. Hmmmmm…. Let's try Europe! Europe is east of Texas, so I should point my beam on an azimuth of 90 degrees, right? WRONG!

Mike Crow W5MJC—Sara Vice President, stumbled across the following web site. This web site demonstrates once again that the Earth is not flat, and the geometry of a spheroid (the Earth's shape) changes everything:

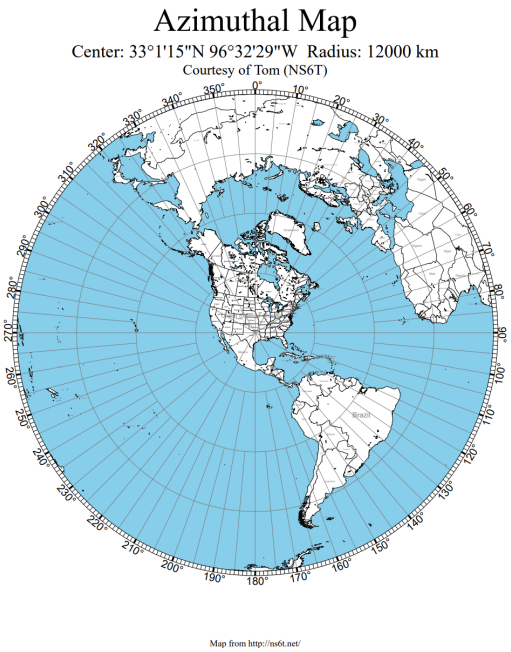
NS6T.NET

(Sorry for the small sized map.)

This map is generated using Mike Crow's home QST coordinates.

As you can see. The proper azimuth to Europe is approximately 40 degrees.

Looking to South America (180 degrees, right?) , you would need to have the beam on a 125 degree azimuth to hit the heart of Brazil.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Working on a project that you think the club members would be interested in? Read a good HAM related article somewhere? Send articles to SARA Newsletter Editor: newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

SARA vice-president Mike Crow, W5MJC heads up the SARA Activities Committee. Anyone who is willing to help or has ideas may contact Mike at: vicepresident@sachseradio.org

SARA BRANDED GEAR

We now have two suppliers for SARA gear. Both of these companies have our logo on file.

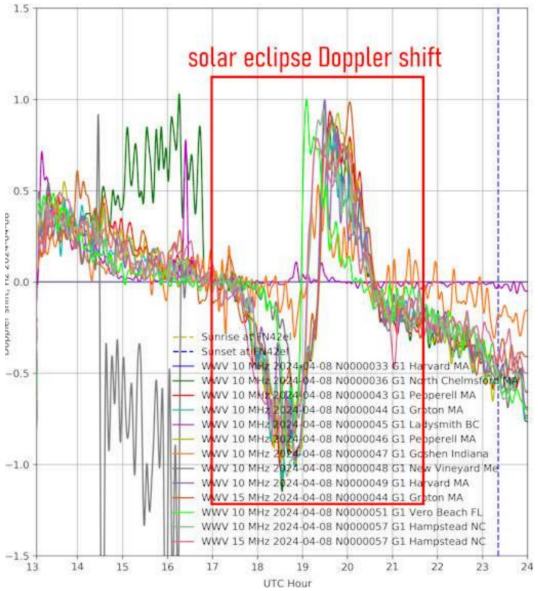
HamThreads will do hats, shirts, jackets and vests. They can do single items. HamThreads is in Saginaw.
https://www.hamthreads.com

SARA NAME BADGES

If you need a SARA name badge please go to:
https://namebadge.com/sachse

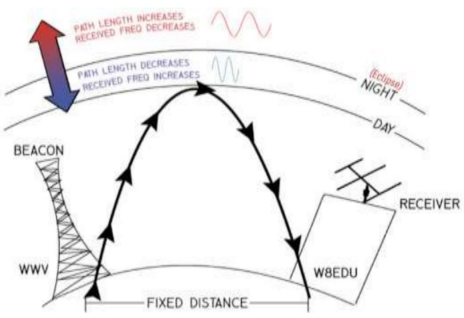
THE SOLAR ECLIPSE SHIFTED TIME SIGNALS IN THE USA

The US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has a radio station in Fort Collins, Colorado. Call letters: WWV (website can be found here). Operating at multiple shortwave frequencies, WWV broadcasts precise time and frequency information 24/7 to listeners worldwide. On April 8, 2024, the frequency of WWV shifted:



"It was the solar eclipse," says ham radio operator Kristina Collins (W8EDU) of Cleveland, Ohio, who assembled records from 13 monitoring stations in and around the path of totality. "The HamSCI (https://hamsci.org/) Personal Space Weather Station Network's Grape stations measure Doppler shift in the carrier signal of time standard radio stations such as WWV. On April 8th, the network saw a distinct S-curve signature associated with the eclipse."

The Doppler shift occurred when the shadow of the Moon pierced the ionosphere, creating a temporary hole where ionization was reduced. This, in turn, altered the "skip distance" from transmitters to receivers, as shown in this diagram:



Because the skip point was moving, reflected radio signals were naturally Doppler-shifted. Space-weather.com reader and senior physicist Larry Carr of Brookhaven National Labs made this calculation: "Using the 10 MHz WWV frequency, an average shift of about 1/2 Hz implies the layer bottom (the 'skip point') was moving at speeds up to 15 m/s. During the entire eclipse, the reflecting layer moved on the order of 50 km."

The total Doppler shift was only a few cycles per second, similar to normal night-day variations, so no one actually lost track of time during the eclipse. Nevertheless, it is a fascinating demonstration of an eclipse's power to touch the Earth.

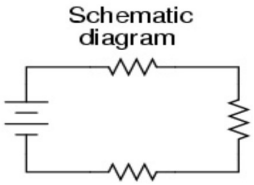
[This article used by implied permission of Space-Weather.com, issued April 18, 2024, Dr. Tony Phillips]

Lite Tech Corner—Episode 2

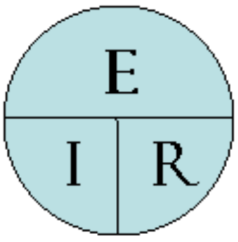
Resistance is Futile

Continuing from last month, let's discuss resistance further. Specifically, let's talk about resistors and their effect on current flow. Resistors are small (generally) components made of carbon, carbon film, or wire. A small quantity of resistive material has a wire connected to its two ends and is encapsulated in an insulating material to protect it. The amount of resistance in ohms, is largely determined by the composition of the material. A resistor serves to impede the flow of current thru it. Why would we want to do that? First simply to limit the amount of current that can flow within a circuit. Second, by using multiple resistors in series, we can easily create a voltage divider useful for many electronics functions and controls. When used with other components (capacitors, coils) we can easily create a tuned circuit sensitive to a specific frequency – useful for selecting one frequency out of many.

Let's examine a simple series resistor circuit. Here we have three resistors connected to a battery. Let's assume that each resistor is 100 ohms and the battery voltage is 3 volts. What can we determine about the circuit with just this much information.



Enter OHM'S law:



E is electromotive force (voltage). I is intensity (current). R is resistance. To calculate one of the three values, simply cover the desired result and do the simple remaining math.

Back to the circuit: The three 100 ohm resistors add together in a series circuit to be 300 ohms effectively as seen by the battery. We know the resistance and the voltage – we need the current. So – cover the "I" which leaves E (voltage) divided by the R (resistance): 3 volts divided by 300 ohms gives 0.01 amperes ("I") of current as the maximum current that can flow. If we measure the voltage across each resistor, we find the "voltage drop" across it. Since the resistors are equal, the drops will be identical. (This is a simple voltage divider!) To verify what the reading should be, let's get the voltage using Ohm's law: E (voltage) equals I (current) multiplied by R (resistance). So – the voltage is .01 ampere times 100 ohms which equals 1 volt. How's that for easy? And, practically, if you have this circuit and another circuit that needs 1 volt from the 3-volt source, this can do it. Simple enough?

Next time, we'll talk about the capacitor – you'll get a charge out of that!

Bob DeVance, K5CRX

Welcome to two new Hams

Two people tested with the W5SRA Laurel VE team on April 20, 2024 and passed the Technician test:

Charles E. Teff
Jenda Oliver-Tucker

Now known as:

Charles E Teff—KJ5GBI
Jenda Oliver-Tucker—<Awaiting Call Sign>

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Tired of just Listening?

Play Ham Radio Bingo While Monitoring!

(From this website)

Ham radio has a thousand and one ways to operate, things that you could spend your life figuring out. Why not spice it up with challenges to do things a little more uniquely, especially for contests? Or even add spice to Field Day as people practice social distancing! Scoll down for your bingo card, and refresh the screen to generate a unique one for you!

YOUR HAM RADIO BINGO CARD

Contact with a Class A station	30 contacts in an hour	IL Illinois	Contact with a National Park	MT Montana
LAX Los Angeles	Contact 120-200 Miles Away	NH New Hampshire	Asia	IA Iowa
Contact with AM	LA Louisiana	FREE	Contact with a nearby club	50 Contacts
100 contacts in 3 hours	SF San Fransisco	Atlantic Division	NE Nebraska	OK Oklahoma
Southwestern Division	300 contacts in 6 hours	Oceania	ITU Region 2	Contact with FM

Your Bingo Card is ready to be used. You can print out this page to use your bingo card for ham radio challenges.

POTA On—Bonham State Park!

Active Hurricane Season Predicted for 2024

04/13/2024

(From Page 2)
..."The common discussion at the National Hurricane Conference this year was the potential for a very active year, and the forecast from CSU enforces that thought," said Johnston. "Several of the forecasters were pointing to indications that we are moving from an El Niño to a La Niña and that could potentially cause a more active season."

The CSU Tropical Weather & Climate Research team predicts 23 named storms during the Atlantic hurricane season. Of those, researchers forecast that 11 will become hurricanes and five will reach major hurricane strength, as measured by the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, with sustained winds of 111 mph or greater. The prediction is above the 30-year average for hurricanes and storms and is above the total of 20 storms, seven hurricanes, and three Category 3 or higher hurricanes in 2023.

Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Atmospheric Science at CSU and the lead author of the report Phil Klotzbach said, "So far, the 2024 hurricane season is exhibiting characteristics similar to 1878, 1926, 1998, 2010, and 2020. Our analog seasons were all very active Atlantic hurricane seasons."

The team predicts that 2024 hurricane activity will be about 170% of the average season from 1991 - 2020. By comparison, 2023's hurricane activity was about 120% of the average season. The report also includes the probability of major hurricanes making landfall, including a 62% probability for the entire US coastline.

The average landfall from 1880 - 2020 was 43%. The report also indicates increased landfall probabilities of 34% for the East Coast of the US, including the Florida peninsula (the average from 1880 - 2020 was 21%); 42% for the Gulf Coast, from the Florida panhandle westward to Brownsville (the average from 1880 - 2020 was 27%), and 66% for the Caribbean (the average from 1880 - 2020 was 47%).

The National Weather Service (NWS), National Hurricane Center (NHC), and Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) are prepared for an active hurricane season. Amateur radio operators can take part in activations on 14.325 MHz during the day and on 7.268 kHz at night. As propagation changes, the HWN may operate both frequencies simultaneously.

At the Florida conference, Johnston also highlighted the relationship between ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as well as ARRL's position as a net control station within the SHAred RESources High Frequency Radio Program (SHARES) managed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

"Now is the time to prepare for emergencies of any type by building relationships, training and refreshing skills, and testing and preparing equipment," added Johnston.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2024

Start time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: North Pointe Church

Facilitator: President Andy Barnes W5KZJ

Everyone stood and joined in to say The Pledge of Allegiance.

Members and guests introduced themselves with names and call signs.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes W5KZJ
Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
Ev Wingo KI5LEX
Mike Crow W5MJC
Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
Rusty Cain KG5WFM
John Smyder W5JWS
Johnnie Young KG5CQO
Sid Gibson K5DKW
Dave Piekarski K5EEN
Amado Pereira KJ5DGS
Marshall Kelly KE5CPD

New Members:

Larry Self, KJ5FHL
Bob Welch, KJ5FIW
Kerry Weeks, K5WKS
Marshall Kelly, KE5CPD

Presentation:

Members of the Sasche Amateur Radio Association wish to express their gratitude to Dave Piekarski K5EEN for his presentation on the "QSL History of Silent Key, Raymond Stone W5RBO".

Members took a five-minute break.

Business Meeting:

President's Report – Andy Barnes W5KZJ

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday April 25th 7 p.m. via Google Meet. There is a link in SARA Skywaves, all are welcome. The next General Meeting will be on Thursday May 9th at 7:30 p.m. at North Point Church.

Upcoming General Meeting Subject Plans:

- *May – Mike Crow W5MJC – Field Day Prep*
- *June – Mike Crow W5MJC – Field Day Prep*

Future General Meeting Topics:

Ideas for upcoming meetings
Please help with subject matter

Vice President's Report – Mike Crow W5MJC

Activities –

Field Day 2024

Nothing new at this time.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes – Kathy Wingo KI5LEY

The minutes for March 2024 were in the newsletter and on the website.

MOTION: Kathy Wingo KI5LEY made a Motion to approve the March minutes.
John Smyder W5JWS seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Linda Smyder W5LCS (not present)

The March 2024 Treasurer Report was presented to the members.

Report available to members upon request to Treasurer.

MOTION: Jeff Feldman KI5DDX made a Motion to approve the March Treasurer Report.
Mike Crow W5MJC seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Public Information Officer's Report - Jeff Feldman KI5DDX

- Saturday QSO Breakfast @ Ballard Street Café @ 7:30 a.m.
- SARA's Weekly Information Net, Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Next Laurel VE Session April 20th @ North Pointe Church, 9 – 11 a.m.
- Free online Amateur Radio Operating Class to begin on Zoom Thursday April 4th through June 20th, for more information see page 2 of April's SARA SkyWaves.

SARA Information Net

The SARA Information Net is held on Monday, at 7:00 p.m. Weekly Information Net Control:

April 15th	Mike Crow W5JWS
April 22nd	Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
April 29th	Mike Crow W5JWS
May 6th	Andy Barnes W5KZJ
May 13th	Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
May 20th	Ev Wingo KI5LEX
May 27th	Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
June 3rd	Andy Barnes W5KZJ
June 10th	Jeff Feldman KI5DDX

Newsletter Editor's Report - Ev Wingo KI5LEX

The April newsletter has been posted to the website and emailed to membership (distribution 144).

Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 25th of each month. The goal is to have the newsletter out on the 1st of each month.

Article Ideas:

- Projects that you are working on or have completed,

- Events and activities related to amateur radio,
- Articles you have read in other publications,
- Member Spotlight
    - Please submit about 250-300 words.

Remember, our distribution is beyond our membership and our content could encourage other people to come get involved!!

Send pictures and articles to newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

POTA Activity:

The McKinney Amateur Radio Club has invited SARA to join them in a Parks on the Air activation at Bonham State Park, April 20th, 9 AM to 9PM. Lunch will be provided.

Other Business:

No further business.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Ev Wingo KI5LEX made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.
Kathy Wingo KI5LEY seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted by
Kathy Wingo
KI5LEY

SARA Skywaves

Is published each month for the purpose of informing Sachse Amateur Radio Association members of current events and issues of interest to amateur radio operators. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to ***SARA Skywaves*** and to the original source.
SARA is a Texas Non-Profit 501(c) 3 corporation based in Sachse, TX.

SARA Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 1764
Wylie, TX 75048-1764

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
Board Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2024

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Facilitator: Andy Barnes W5KZJ, President

The invocation was offered by Jeff Feldman KI5DDX.

President Andy Barnes W5KZJ thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes – W5KZJ	Mike Crow – W5MJC	Ev Wingo – KI5LEX
Kathy Wingo – KI5LEY	Jeff Feldman – KI5DDX	

1. **GMRS Repeater**

   A GMRS Repeater would approximately cost between $3K-$3.5K. One cannot link a GMRS Repeater to the Internet. There appears to be a black hole between Sachse and Sherman. A GMRS Repeater could perhaps help fill in this hole.

   A GMRS license is $35 and good for the entire family. How many of the SARA club members have a GMRS license already? The goal would be to pull more people interested in radio and eventually get them interested in getting their amateur radio license.

   You can get a portable GMRS repeater for about $350 which would cover 30-40 miles.

   Would ARRL insurance cover this type of repeater?

   ACTION: This discussion will be taken to the membership for discussion at a future meeting. Jeff Feldman KI5DDX will create a survey for the members to get their opinions.

2. **Nominating Committee**

   Elections are coming up in September. Jim Szot did a great job last year. The board will speak with Jim again.

3. **Field Day Preparation**

   Andy Barnes W5KZJ talked to the Sachse Parks and Recreation Board and was told that the meeting has been changed to May 21st. We were told to go ahead with our plans to stay overnight in the park, as the meeting and permission was just a formality.

There are restrooms and shore power available for overnight use.

4. **Facebook**

   On the club's Facebook page it appears there are a lot of people who are members on the page who don't need to be there. Admins would like to change the questions used to join the page to ask for call signs, are you an amateur radio operator, and why are you interested in the club. This would make it a bit more secure for the club members.

   ACTION: Mike Crow W5MJC will redo the questions on FB page.

5. **Free Membership After Testing**

   New members who test with Laurel will not be added to the membership list until they attend their first club meeting. If they are automatically added to the membership list and they don't attend any meetings, we run the risk of not having a quorum.

6. **Other Business**

   None.

7. **Adjourn**

   MOTION: Kathy Wingo KI5LEY made the motion to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Mike Crow W5MJC seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.
Kathy Wingo
KI5LEY

Weekly Information Net Control Station Script

This net control script is a ***SUGGESTED*** script for the NCS to use to conduct the weekly net. NCS should feel free modify this script as needed to encourage maximum participation by all net participants.

(NCS Reads the text in black. Instructions to NCS are in (red).)

(A list of potential questions to ask the net attendees can be found here.)

(Preamble)

Good evening all Radio Amateurs and welcome. This is (Your Call), my name is (Your Name), and I will be your Net Control Station for this session of the Ham Radio in Sachse Weekly Information Net. This net meets every Monday night at 7:00 PM local time, on the W5SRA repeater, frequency 440.350 MHz, with an offset of +5.00 MHz, and using a PL tone of 110.9, for the purpose of discussing topics of interest to SARA members and others.(pause) This is a Directed Net. Please do not transmit unless directed to do so by Net Control. If the repeater should go down, everyone should switch to the Sachse emergency simplex frequency 146400 MHz.

Also, if at any time you have an emergency that is an imminent threat to life or property, break in by saying*"Priority", "Emergency", or "Break Break"* followed by your call sign, and the net will recognize your station and will stand by.

(Pause)
*(*A reminder—Net Control Should ID about every 10 minutes.)

(Check-Ins)
As we start check-ins this evening, we will break them down into two categories.

1. Portable, mobile and short time check-ins.
2. General Check-ins

We will initially stand-by for portable, mobile and short time check-ins. Please, come now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name, followed by your callsign alphanumerically.

(Recognize short time, portable and mobile check-ins individually.)
(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have.)
(Ask for any additional check-ins.)

We will now standby for general check-ins. Please, check in now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name, followed by your callsign alphanumerically.

(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have. Then ask for more check-ins – this might need to be done 2 or 3 or more times – until there are no more check-ins.)
(Make sure you give your own call-sign regularly and allow others to ID appropriately as well.)
(ASK for any additional check-ins.)

(Club Announcements)

We will start off with club announcements from club officers. Any club officer on the net with an announcement, please come now with your call sign.

(Aways make certain the weekly QSO eyeball breakfast is announced)

SARA meets for breakfast every Saturday morning at 7:30AM at Ballard Street Cafe, 112 N. Ballard St. in downtown Wylie. People begin showing up around 7:00 with most showing up by 7:30AM.

(General Announcements)

At this time, we will take stations with announcements of interest to the amateur radio community in general.

(When Ham Operators check-in initially, they may tell you if they have an announcement for later in the Net. Make note of those who have announcements and recognize them first.)

(TECH CORNER and SWAP NET)

Is there anyone who would like to ask a technical question, or share information on something they would like to buy or sell? Remember no haggling over price on the air. Please come now with your call sign.

(Late Check-Ins)

Before we end this Net, I would like to take late check-ins. If there are any late check-ins, please give your call sign and name slowly and clearly.

(Write down and read back each call sign).

(Wrap-Up)

This is (your name and call). We wish to thank all who participated in the net this evening. This net will meet again next Monday night at 7:00PM local time on the W5SRA Repeater. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM at North Point Church of Christ, 7030 Hwy 78, Sachse , TX. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association Board of Directors meets the fourth Thursday at 7:00PM on Google Meet. A link for this meeting is in the club calendar.

(Close the net)

This concludes the Ham Radio in Sachse Weekly Information Net. If you would like more information about the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, please visit our web site at www.sachseradio.org. This is *(name and call sign)* and we now return the W5SRA repeater to its normal use. Hope to hear from you next week.